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RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 5494  
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 4710  
RUEHNEH/AMCONSUL HYDERABAD 1277  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 2628  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 6581  
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 3068  
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 9896  
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USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/ANESA/OSA FOR BILL MURPHY

E.O. 12958:N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: INDO-PAK RELATIONS,  
AFGHANISTAN; NEW DELHI.

This countrywide cable reports on relevant media reaction/opinion from India's large non-English press. The Mission reports on English-language media via email through the daily "Early Edition" summary.

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INDO-PAK RELATIONS  
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[1](#)1. "ZARDARI'S POSITIVE STATEMENT," editorial in January 19 right-of-center Urdu daily RASHTRIYA SAHARA: "The people of India and Pakistan have always tried to maintain close relations, but interference by powers like America has come in the way. The pro-American record of Pakistan's government and the army is well known to all. Even India's friendly ties with America are not hidden. Both nations should understand, however, that mutual cordiality is more important than their friendship with America. India and Pakistan should stand guard against the intervention of any third party, particularly America."

[1](#)2. "A THOUSAND YEAR WAR," editorial in January 21 Guwahati Assamese left-of-center AMAR ASOM: "President Zardari's latest vow to fight a thousand year war with India over Kashmir might help heal his countrymen's wound but it would do little to bring any tangible change in Pakistan's situation. After 9/11, India's stature in international politics grew more than Pakistan. That's why Pakistan has repeatedly failed to make the Kashmir problem a global issue. Unfortunately,

Pakistani leaders do not realize that terrorism is gradually destroying the social, economic and cultural fabric of their society."

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AFGHANISTAN  
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13. "GROWING POWER OF TALIBAN," editorial in January 20 right-of-center Urdu daily, HAMARA SAMAJ: "Until the U.S succeeds in bringing the Taliban to the negotiation table, peace can't progress. If the Taliban gain more strength, there will be more destruction in Afghanistan!"

14. "KABUL ATTACK IS WORRISOME," editorial in January 20 right-of-center Urdu daily, RASHTRIYA SAHARA: "The Taliban's ability to challenge Afghan forces shows that they have public support. It would not be wrong to say that the weak policies of the U.S. and its puppet regime in Afghanistan are behind this situation. There is a need to instill trust and confidence in the Afghan people so that they start thinking that the government is working seriously for them."  
ROEMER